

Coded Emergency Department Data System (CEDDS)

The Washington State Department of Health collects health care data from various health care facilities in the state. Major trauma data are collected through the statewide trauma registry system; inpatient hospitalization data are collected through the Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS); Emergency Medical Services data are collected through the Washington Emergency Medical Service Information System (WEMSIS); and birth and death data are collected through vital records. In addition, comprehensive traffic accident data are collected through the Collision Location and Analysis System (CLAS) and the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). Together, these data sets provide a broad view of health care utilization, health outcomes and traffic accidents in the state of Washington, however an important link is currently missing, namely the collection of hospital Emergency Department (ED) data.

Total charges for ED visits in Washington State are approximately \$2.5 billion per year, resulting from approximately 2.5 million annual ED visits. Collecting data on all ED visits in the state of Washington will serve as a useful tool in driving continuous quality improvement and health-related decision making, and for the assessment of health care utilization, disease surveillance, and health care charges.

The **Coded Emergency Department Data System (CEDDS)** is a pilot project funded by Washington Traffic Safety Commission with the aim of demonstrating the feasibility and utility of collecting ED data in Washington State. During the initial pilot phase, which runs from July 2009 through April 2011, the project aims to recruit 6-12 hospitals to voluntarily participate in ED data reporting. Standard billing forms will constitute the primary source of data and will be reported through the existing CHARS system.

CEDDS is based at the Washington State Department of Health, which has management oversight for the project. The CEDDS Recommendations Committee is comprised of representatives from various ED data stakeholder groups in the state of Washington, including the pilot hospitals participating in the project. The Committee will make recommendations as to the topics to be addressed using ED data in the final project report and the list of data variables to be collected. The Committee will also weigh in on ED data quality issues and will develop a set of recommendations relating to the implementation of statewide ED data collection. The assessment of the feasibility of ED data collection, demonstration of the utility of ED data and the recommendations of the Committee on statewide ED data collection will be published on the web in the end of project report.

For more information about the CEDDS pilot project, please contact Dr. Wendy Shultis, PhD, CEDDS Project Lead at the Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Department of Health; phone (360) 236-4321 and email wendy.shultis@doh.wa.gov.